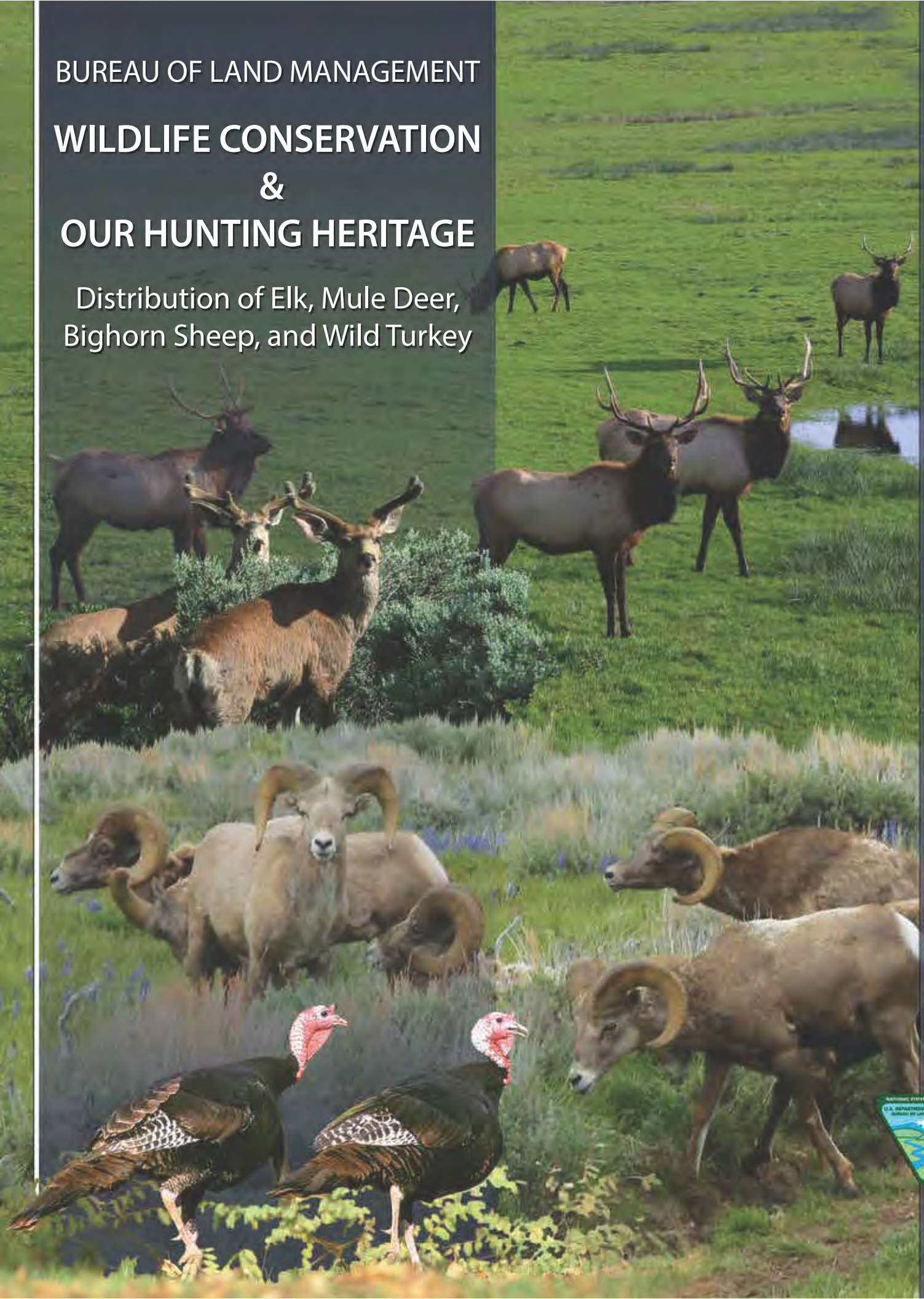
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

WILDLIFE CONSERVATION & OUR HUNTING HERITAGE

Distribution of Elk, Mule Deer, Bighorn Sheep, and Wild Turkey



BLM

THE BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT'S MISSION AND ROLE IN WILDLIFE CONSERVATION

The basis of the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM's) multiple-use mission, "To sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of America's public lands for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations," was set forth in the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976. This act of Congress directs the BLM to manage public lands for a variety of uses, such as energy development, livestock grazing, recreation, mining, and timber harvesting, while protecting and sustaining a wide array of natural, cultural, and historical resources.

With more than 245 million acres of public land primarily located in 12 western states, the BLM manages more wildlife habitat than any other federal agency. BLM-managed lands comprise some of the Nation's most ecologically diverse and essential habitat—home to more than 3,000 species of wildlife, including big game, upland game, waterfowl, shorebirds, songbirds, raptors, and hundreds of nongame mammal, reptile, and amphibian species. Wildlife-related activities on BLM lands, such as hunting and bird watching, contribute hundreds of millions of dollars in economic benefits to local communities.

The BLM's wildlife program is responsible for managing habitat to help ensure a natural abundance and diversity of wildlife on public lands. This work is accomplished through a variety of habitat conservation and restoration activities, many funded through partnerships with federal, state, and nongovernmental organizations. These activities provide countless benefits to the public by protecting, restoring, and enhancing wildlife habitat to support healthy biological communities. As a result, these activities help maintain and increase diverse wildlife-related recreational opportunities on public lands.

WORKING TOGETHER FOR WILDLIFE HABITAT IMPROVEMENT

Today, the BLM is focusing on habitat conditions and resource management strategies across entire landscapes. The BLM works closely with state wildlife agencies, which have primary responsibility for wildlife management, along with tribal organizations, conservation groups, and private landowners to identify conservation priorities for wildlife habitat and to effectively monitor progress toward achieving management objectives. Emphasis is placed on implementing conservation actions intended to sustain wildlife populations by reducing the negative effects of habitat stressors, such as nonnative/invasive species, catastrophic wildfire, climate change, insects, disease, and habitat loss or fragmentation.

ABOUT THIS BROCHURE

Over the past several years, western states have been actively engaged in a coordinated effort to develop and share natural resources data with partner agencies, organizations, research institutions, and the public to broaden the understanding of ecological processes and improve the effectiveness of conservation programs across larger landscapes. This brochure is a product of that collaboration—incorporating the best available wildlife data to illustrate the current distribution of four important North American game species on BLM-administered public lands: elk, mule deer, bighorn sheep, and wild turkey. The BLM is pleased to provide this informational brochure to hunters, wildlife viewers, and others to encourage the responsible use and enjoyment of America's public lands.

The BLM gratefully acknowledges the following organizations for their generous contributions and support in the production of this brochure:

RMEF www.rmef.org

WILD SHEEP Foundation www.wildsheepfoundation.org

WAFWA Western Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies www.wafwa.org

NWTF www.nwtf.org

MULE DEER FOUNDATION www.muledeer.org

BLM/WO/GI-12/14+6600

ELK HABITAT &

BLM-Managed Lands Across the Western United States

No warranty is made as to the accuracy, reliability, or completeness of these data for individual or aggregate use with other data.
U.S. Bureau of Land Management, National Operations Center, Wildlife Habitat Spatial Analysis Lab, 2012

BIGHORN SHEEP-OCCUPIED HABITAT &

BLM-Managed Lands Across the Western United States

Of the 62 million acres of bighorn sheep-occupied habitat in the Western United States, approximately 23 million acres (38%) are managed by the BLM.*

* These lands support approximately 47% of the current population of desert bighorn sheep subspecies.

LEGEND

- Bighorn Sheep-Occupied Habitat
- Bighorn Sheep-Occupied Habitat on BLM-Managed Lands
- BLM-Managed Lands

0 50 100 200 300 Miles

Bighorn sheep habitat data: state wildlife agencies, 2011. Data from national parks and federal Indian reservation lands may not be included in this representation.

No warranty is made as to the accuracy, reliability, or completeness of these data for individual or aggregate use with other data.
U.S. Bureau of Land Management, National Operations Center, Wildlife Habitat Spatial Analysis Lab, 2012

WILD TURKEY HABITAT &

BLM-Managed Lands Across the Western United States

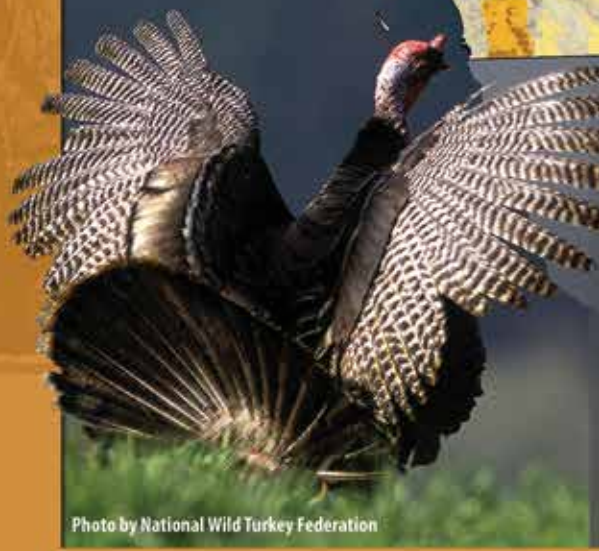


Photo by National Wild Turkey Federation

Of the 414 million acres of wild turkey habitat in the Western United States, approximately 18 million acres (4%) are managed by the BLM.

LEGEND

- Wild Turkey Habitat
- Wild Turkey Habitat on BLM-Managed Lands
- BLM-Managed Lands

0 50 100 200 300 Miles

Wild turkey habitat data: state wildlife agencies, 2009. Data from national parks and federal Indian reservation lands may not be included in this representation.

No warranty is made as to the accuracy, reliability, or completeness of these data for individual or aggregate use with other data.
U.S. Bureau of Land Management, National Operations Center, Wildlife Habitat Spatial Analysis Lab, 2012

MULE DEER HABITAT &

BLM-Managed Lands Across the Western United States

Of the 840 million acres of mule deer habitat in the Western United States, approximately 131 million acres (16%) are managed by the BLM.

LEGEND

- Mule Deer Habitat
- Mule Deer Habitat on BLM-Managed Lands
- BLM-Managed Lands

0 50 100 200 300 Miles

Mule deer habitat data: Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, 2004. Data from national parks and federal Indian reservation lands may not be included in this representation.

No warranty is made as to the accuracy, reliability, or completeness of these data for individual or aggregate use with other data.
U.S. Bureau of Land Management, National Operations Center, Wildlife Habitat Spatial Analysis Lab, 2012